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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

DECEMBER 1969

VOL. 11, NO. 7

LAST TIME COMING AGAIN

By regularly publishing this report mailed to all legislators, the Council has been able to fairly paid during the legislative session. The 1969 report for mis-derogations to the Council. For 1969 will report salary paid to the Council, Legislative Agency, work on the Legislative Council, Legislative Council, Finance Committee, etc., and Legislative Council, as well as the interim study committee. Other non-session salary paid during the interim period.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MET DECEMBER

The Legislative Council met on December 8. The Council:

(1) Heard a report from Carl E. Kartz, Director of Operations, on the assistance available to Montana. It involved travel or other expense.

REPORTING COUNCIL

(2) Voted to request the retrieval Corporation of America to reprint the new Montana Code Annotated in 1969. The price was \$1.00 under "T" because of the printing cost made by the corporation. (Council staff reported no change of 15 telephone calls a day concerning the printing of the Code.)

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION TO BE STUDIED

(3) Voted to contract with the Interstate Consulting Clearinghouse for a study of the Council's internal organization and administrative operations.

TRAVEL CLAIMS

(4) Voted to require each complete or apparently erroneous travel claim submitted by a legislator. The Council instructed the Council accounting staff not to compile travel claims until it is completed by the legislator.

NEW MEMBER ON ENERGY FORECASTING

The Legislative Council appointed Representative Kenneth Nordt to the Energy Forecasting Committee to replace Representative Carl Seifert.

INTERIM COMMITTEES

- ANNEXATION** The Study Committee on Annexation will hold its third meeting on Friday, January 11, 1980, in Billings. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Yellowstone Room on the second floor of the Student Union at Eastern Montana College. The committee will further analyze problems with Montana's annexation laws and will receive public comment on several discussion proposals put forward to ease those problems.
- BRANCHING
OF FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS** The Study Committee on the Branching of Financial Institutions held a public hearing on December 8. Representatives of most types of financial institutions involved in the study appeared at the hearing. The committee plans to study optional forms of branching and hear further testimony at a meeting scheduled for April 14.
- ENERGY
FORECASTING** On November 2 and 3, the Study Committee on Energy Forecasting held an extensive informational hearing on the question of the need for and desirability of establishing an independent state forecasting program. The committee heard testimony from representatives of investor-owned utilities, the oil and coal industries, alternative energy developers, regulatory agencies, and environmental and public interest organizations. Committee members asked their staff to prepare a report analyzing the material discussed during the meeting as well as pertinent federal and state statutes and other relevant background information. The next meeting is planned for early spring.
- MEETING WITH BPA ADMINISTRATOR
- FOR ALL
LEGISLATORS** The Lieutenant Governor's Office has recently informed us that Sterling Munro, Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, will meet with various state officials on Thursday, December 20, 1979. Mr. Munro would like to meet with any legislators interested in discussing issues involving the provision of electrical energy by BPA to Montana utilities and consumers. As you know, BPA is currently involved in energy forecasting for the Pacific Northwest region's 116 preference customers and four investor-owned utilities. BPA is the source of much information on energy supply and demand conditions in the region, of which western Montana is a part. In addition, Congress is in the process of substantially reorganizing the BPA, and these efforts have been and continue to be of major interest to many Montanans.

Legislators are invited to meet with Sterling Munro on the afternoon of December 20. A definite time has not been scheduled at this point, but we will notify you as soon as more details are available. Interested legislators must come to Helena to meet with Mr. Munro at their own expense -- no travel money is available for this purpose.

CONTAINERS

The final meeting of the Study Committee on Containers was held in Helena on December 1. The Committee adopted a final report which will be available upon request later this month.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MEETING NOVEMBER 17

The Revenue Oversight Committee met November 17 in Helena to continue its study of Montana's liquor quota system and its greenbelt law. Members reviewed staff research reports on each topic and began discussing possible legislation. A draft bill concerning the rollback tax will be considered at the Committee's January meeting.

The Committee received progress reports on the Department of Administration's recent sale of tax anticipation notes and several of the Department of Revenue's programs. The Committee also reviewed the details of several pending legal cases concerning the Department. In particular, members discussed the problems surrounding the Department of Revenue's 1978 reappraisal of commercial property, the State Tax Appeal Board's subsequent lowering of the values of some of this property by 34%, and the many suits on the matter now pending. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

That because of the importance of the issue of the valuation of commercial property, the number of people affected by the problem, and the complication of the problem with regard to 1979 and future years, we urge a speedy resolution of this matter so that all parties know what the tax is.

The Committee will meet again on January 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 104, State Capitol, Helena.

COAL TAX OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING NOVEMBER 16

The Subcommittee met November 16 in Helena to receive progress reports on two programs funded by the coal severance tax: the Renewable Resources Development Program and the Alternative Energy Program. DNRC staff

also reported on projects funded from the Resource Indemnity Trust Interest Fund.

The Subcommittee will meet in Billings in late January to discuss these programs and the local impact program.

CAPITOL
BUILDING
& PLANNING

The Capitol Building and Planning Committee will hold its second meeting on January 9 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 139 of the Capitol. The meeting will be a working session for the Committee and will include a tour of the Capitol.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Finance Committee met in Helena, December 7 and 8.

UNIVERSITY
FUNDING
STUDY

The committee discussed a staff report which presented summaries of campus interviews and funding formulas in other states. The committee directed the staff to address funding by level, discipline, and fixed costs in developing alternatives to present funding procedures.

MSU NURSING
ISSUE

The legislative delegation from Butte expressed its concern to the committee about the proposed closing of the MSU nursing program at Butte. President Tietz also addressed the issue.

PRISON
POPULATION

The State Budget Director requested the committee to advise him whether the halfway house project in Billings should proceed. It was the committee's opinion that, since the prison population had not grown since the legislative session, the project should be delayed at least until the expected growth is realized.

JUNIOR
ANALYST
ARRIVES

John and Carol LaFaver welcomed their new son, Jeremy John, on October 14.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Audit Committee met December 7, 1979 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 413-415 of the State Capitol.

REPORTS TO
BE ISSUED

The committee received, reviewed, and filed the following financial/compliance audit reports: Department of Business Regulation*; Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing*; Department of Community Affairs*; and Department of Administration, Treasury Division*. (*Audits conducted by Certified Public Accountant firms.)

SUNSET The committee held the public hearing on the Board of Nursing sunset audit report.

NEXT
MEETING The next meeting of the Legislative Audit Committee was scheduled for January 21, 1980.

REPORTS
AVAILABLE Copies of all reports are available from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol.
Telephone: 449-3122.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

MEETING The Environmental Quality Council held its regularly
NOVEMBER 6-8 scheduled meeting November 6, 7, and 8, in Malta and Glasgow.

The Council and staff also toured several facilities in the area, including the Air Force Base in Glasgow; the proposed re-regulation site at Fort Peck; the Circle-West coal project; the Federal Bentonite facility in Glasgow; and the American Colloid plant in Malta.

The EQC staff is now outlining the draft for the Coordination of Permit Procedures Act (HJR 60). Legislators are encouraged to refer to the working paper sent earlier and send any input to the EQC office as soon as possible.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held during the latter part of January.

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH DECEMBER

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

							1		Container Dep. Rm. 139 8:00 a.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	15		Legislative Finance Rm. 104 8:00a.m. Legislative Council 10:00a.m. Rm. 139 Branching Finan- cial Institutions Senate Chambers
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	22		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	29		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			



LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH JANUARY

MONTH
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Capitol Building and Planning Rm. 139 1 p.m.-4 p.m.	10	11	12 Revenue Oversight Rm. 104 9:30 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 State Mandates Rm. 104
20	21 Legislative Audit Comm. Rm. 104 9:00 a.m.	22	23	24	25 Environmental Quality Council TENTATIVE	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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